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REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, dated July 27, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Plomondon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,729,599) in view of Wise et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,262).

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 8, 9, and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, and 16 to improve form, and add new claims 17-37. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1-7, 10-13, and 15-37 are pending.

In paragraphs 2-17 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-7, 10-13, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Plomondon et al. in view of Wise et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method comprising receiving an incoming call from a caller; retrieving telephone identifying information from the incoming call; using the telephone identifying information to access a user profile, the user profile corresponding to the telephone identifying information; prompting the caller for a target telephone destination; receiving the target telephone destination; determining a target telephone number corresponding to the target telephone destination; prompting the caller with an option to enter the target telephone number in the user profile when the target telephone number does not correspond to an extant telephone number entry in the user profile; and in response to selection of the option by the caller, storing at least one of the target telephone destination or the target telephone number in the user profile.

Neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests the combination of features recited in amended claim 1. For

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example, neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al. discloses or suggests prompting the caller with an option to enter the target telephone number in the user profile when the target telephone number does not correspond to an extant telephone number entry in the user profile. Plomondon et al. teaches away from this feature by disclosing that a proposed routing destination that is not blocked is always stored in the subscriber profile (col. 10, line 59 - col. 11, line 19). Wise et al. discloses nothing remotely similar to this feature of claim 1.

The Examiner admitted that Plomondon et al. does not disclose prompting the caller with an option to enter the target telephone number in the user profile when the target telephone number does not correspond to an extant telephone number entry in the user profile (Office Action, page 3). The Examiner relied on Wise et al. for allegedly disclosing: (1) that a user at a telephone could request a long distance connection over a computer network and then input the telephone number of the desired telephone using DTMF signaling or voice commands; (2) that advanced intelligent network (AIN) features may be incorporated into the system to allow access to individual profiles using caller identification (ID) information, location profiles using location ID information, user preferences, and sensitive network using a combination of caller ID, password, and voice recognition information; and (3) that an AIN connection may be used to designate a home page for an individual user, define other preferences, or enhance security by implementing encryption or communicating encryption keys (Office Action, page 3).

Regardless of the accuracy of the Examiner's allegations regarding the Wise et al. reference, Applicants submit that the Examiner is ignoring the language of Applicants' claim 1. The feature that the Examiner is supposedly rejecting based on Wise et al. cannot reasonably be alleged to correspond to any of the alleged disclosures of Wise et al. Therefore, even if, for the sake of argument, Wise et al. discloses all of the items identified by the Examiner, Wise et al.

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still does not disclose or suggest prompting the caller with an option to enter the target telephone number in the user profile when the target telephone number does not correspond to an extant telephone number entry in the user profile, as required by claim 1. Therefore, Wise et al. does not cure the admitted deficiencies in the disclosure of Plomondon et al. identified above.

In addition, even if, for the sake of argument, Wise et al. could reasonably be construed to disclose prompting the caller with an option to enter the target telephone number in the user profile when the target telephone number does not correspond to an extant telephone number entry in the user profile (a point that Applicants do not concede), it still would not have been obvious to combine the disclosure of Wise et al. with the disclosure of Plomondon et al. absent impermissible hindsight. As explained above, Plomondon et al. teaches away from prompting the caller with an option to enter the target telephone number in the user profile when the target telephone number does not correspond to an extant telephone number entry in the user profile. Therefore, it would be directly contrary to the disclosure of Plomondon et al. to modify the Plomondon et al. system to prompt the caller with an option to enter the target telephone number in the user profile when the target telephone number does not correspond to an extant telephone number entry in the user profile.

Because neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al. discloses or suggests prompting the caller with an option to enter the target telephone number in the user profile when the target telephone number does not correspond to an extant telephone number entry in the user profile, Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. cannot disclose or suggest storing at least one of the target telephone destination or the target telephone number in the user profile in response to selection of the option by the caller, as further recited in claim 1.

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For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 1.

Amended independent claim 10 is directed to a method of adding to a first user profile corresponding to a first user a data set retrieved from a second user profile corresponding to a second user in response to a single request made by the first user, where the request corresponds to a URL provided by the second user to the first user and includes a second user identifier corresponding to the second user profile. The method comprises receiving the single request from the first user; using the second user identifier to selectively retrieve the data set from the second user profile; determining if the single request includes a cookie that is associated with the first user profile; and adding the data set to the first user profile in response to determining that the single request includes the cookie that is associated with the first user profile.

Neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, disclose or suggests the combination of features recited in amended claim 10. For example, neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al. discloses or suggests receiving a single request from a first user. The Examiner did not specifically address this feature and, therefore, did not establish a prima facie case of obviousness with regard to claim 10.

Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. also do not disclose or suggest using a second user identifier from the single request to selectively retrieve a data set from a second user profile. The Examiner alleged that Wise et al. discloses this feature and cited column 9, lines 1-10, of Wise et al. for support (Office Action, page 6). Applicants respectfully disagree.

At column 9, lines 1-10, Wise et al. discloses:

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... memory 330 contains user profiles and location profiles that direct the creation of custom reports. For example, a certain user regularly checks the closing price of a certain stock and the traffic report for the area near the user's house in Silver Spring, Md. before leaving the office. Instead of traversing several system menus and submenus to access the desired information, that user may have a profile that directs the initial prompt from the system to be, "Press 1 for the Bell Atlantic stock closing price and the traffic report for the Silver Spring area. Press 2 for other menu options."

This section of Wise et al. discloses the use of user profiles and location profiles that permit the user to customize information that the user receives. Nowhere in this section, or elsewhere, does Wise et al. disclose or suggest using a second user identifier from a single request to selectively retrieve a data set from a second user profile, as required by claim 10.

Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. also do not disclose or suggest determining if the single request includes a cookie that is associated with a first user profile, as further recited in claim 10. The Examiner alleged that Plomondon et al. discloses this feature and cited column 4, lines 7-20, of Plomondon et al. for support (Office Action, page 6). Applicants respectfully disagree.

At column 4, lines 2-20, Plomondon et al. discloses:

Finally, there is provided forwarding means in electrical communication with the processing means for allowing forwarding of the incoming call in response to the routing destination number when the routing destination number does not correspond to a blocked destination identifier found in the database.

In this system, there is further provided second storage means for storing at least one valid destination number in a subscriber profile unique to the subscriber's telephone number. Additionally, second processing means exists in electrical communication with both the second storage means and the receiving means for searching the subscriber service profile for a valid destination number matching the routing destination number. Moreover, there exists a second forwarding means in electrical communication with the second processing means for forwarding the communication call in response to the routing destination number when the routing destination number matches a valid destination number found in the subscribers service profile.

In this section, Plomondon et al. discloses that a valid destination number can be stored in a subscriber profile and used to determine whether a routing destination number is a valid destination number. Nowhere in this section, or elsewhere, does Plomondon et al. disclose or suggest determining if a single request includes a cookie that is associated with a first user

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profile, as required by claim 10. In fact, neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al. even mentions a cookie.

Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. also do not disclose or suggest adding the data set to the first user profile in response to determining that the single request includes the cookie that is associated with the first user profile, as further recited in claim 10. When addressing this feature, the Examiner cited to a section that exists in neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al. (Office Action, page 6). Applicants respectfully request clarification of the rejection of this feature based on Plomondon et al. and Wise et al.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Claims 11-13, 15, and 16 depend from claim 10 and are, therefore, patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 10.

New claims 17-25 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 1. Claims 17-25 also recite additional features not disclosed or suggested by Plomondon et al. or Wise et al.

New independent claim 26 recites features similar to, but possibly different in scope from, features recited in claim 1. Claim 26 is, therefore, patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least reasons similar to reasons given with regard to claim 1. Claims 27-30 depend from claim 26 and are, therefore, patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 26. Claims 27-30 also recite additional features not disclosed or suggested by Plomondon et al. or Wise et al.

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New independent claim 31 is directed to a system. The system comprises a voice portal to receive an incoming call from a caller, receive a message from the caller, prompt the caller for a target telephone destination for the message, receive the target telephone destination, determine a target telephone number corresponding to the target telephone destination, output the message as a message delivery call based on the target telephone number, detect an answer to the message delivery call, when a destination party answers the message delivery call, provide the destination party with an option to listen to or dispose of the message, and when an answering machine answers the message delivery call, provide information to the answering machine that a message is waiting from the caller.

Neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests the combination of features recited in claim 31. For example, neither Plomondon et al. nor Wise et al. discloses or suggests a voice portal that, among other things, outputs a message as a message delivery call based on a target telephone number, detects an answer to the message delivery call, when a destination party answers the message delivery call, provides the destination party with an option to listen to or dispose of the message, and/or when an answering machine answers the message delivery call, provides information to the answering machine that a message is waiting from the caller.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 31 is patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination.

Claims 32 and 33 depend from claim 10 and are, therefore, patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 10. Claims 32 and 33 also recite additional features not disclosed or suggested by Plomondon et al. or Wise et al.

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New independent claims 34 and 37 recite features similar to, but possibly different in scope from, features recited in claim 10. Claims 34 and 37 are, therefore, patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least reasons similar to reasons given with regard to claim 10. Claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 34 and are, therefore, patentable over Plomondon et al. and Wise et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 34. Claims 35 and 36 also recite additional features not disclosed or suggested by Plomondon et al. or Wise et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner does not believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

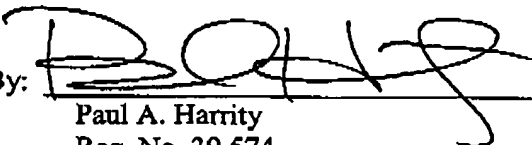
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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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